



**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 1600**

PATENT

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

February 17, 2004 Susan C. Clingerman
Date Susan C. Clingerman

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Michael W. Reed, Eugeny A. Lukhtanov, Alexander A. Gall,
Robert O. Dempcy, Nicolaas M. J. Vermeulen, and
Yevgeniy S. Belousov

Application No. : 09/876,830

Confirmation No. : 8679

Filed : June 6, 2001

Title : FLUORESCENT QUENCHING DETECTION REAGENTS
AND METHODS

Examiner : Jezia Riley

Art Unit : 1637

Docket No. : 290097.405

Date : February 17, 2004

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response Under 37 CFR § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents:

In response to the Office Action dated January 16, 2004, in the above-identified application, please amend the application as indicated below, and please consider the following remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.